

LYMAN

Genealogy of a
Family

THE LYMANS OF HIGH ONGAR

Jeff & Ruth Freymann

The following is an excerpt from the journal kept by Jeff Freymann, a Lyman Outlaw (or maybe Wannabe?) on a trip we made in 1991 to find Ruth's Lyman roots in High Ongar.

Tuesday, November 8, 8:30 PM Ruth and I are tucked away in a nice room under the eaves of the Hotel St. Olave in Loughton, a small city on the extreme eastern fringe of Metropolitan London. If you have never heard of Loughton, neither had we until this morning. How did we get here? With great difficulty -- but that's part of today's story.

We arrived by train from Scotland this morning. Euston Station at the peak of the morning rush was a startling contrast to yesterday's Scottish tranquility. After a quick snack, we stashed most of our luggage and took the Tube to Liverpool Street Station. Here we caught the 10 AM train for Chelmsford, the nearest large city in Essex to the seat of Ruth's Lyman ancestors, High Ongar.

We have now learned that public libraries are good sources for information, so we went directly to the huge one in Chelmsford. There we found that the Regional History Center which includes Ongar is in the Loughton library. We decided we should acquaint ourselves with local geography before going to that library. The Mormon Library at home has baptismal and marriage records on the Lymans from 1442 to 1633 (when they left for America), and each event had occurred at one of three places in Essex: High Ongar, Mandeville, or Navestock. However, we didn't know if the latter two were towns, churches or manors.

So we rented a Ford Sierra from a bunch of Indians who run the local Budget agency and headed west across the gently rolling fields of Essex, still bright green under dull overcast even this late in the year.

High Ongar was easy to find. Its one street (labeled "The Street") turns off the main highway and is only a few blocks long. Along one side is a line of houses, some quite old, none very new, and two attractive pubs.



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Half of the other side is taken up by the churchyard of the Parish Church of St. Mary. Here, in a spacious yard that contains graves spanning three centuries, is a lovely little church. Its most striking feature is the walls of the nave. They are built of flint rubble embedded in mortar, a style characteristic of Essex in the 12th and 13th centuries. Only the tower is new, having been built in 1858.

We entered through a door notable for its Norman dog-tooth ornamentation, also a relic of the 12th century.

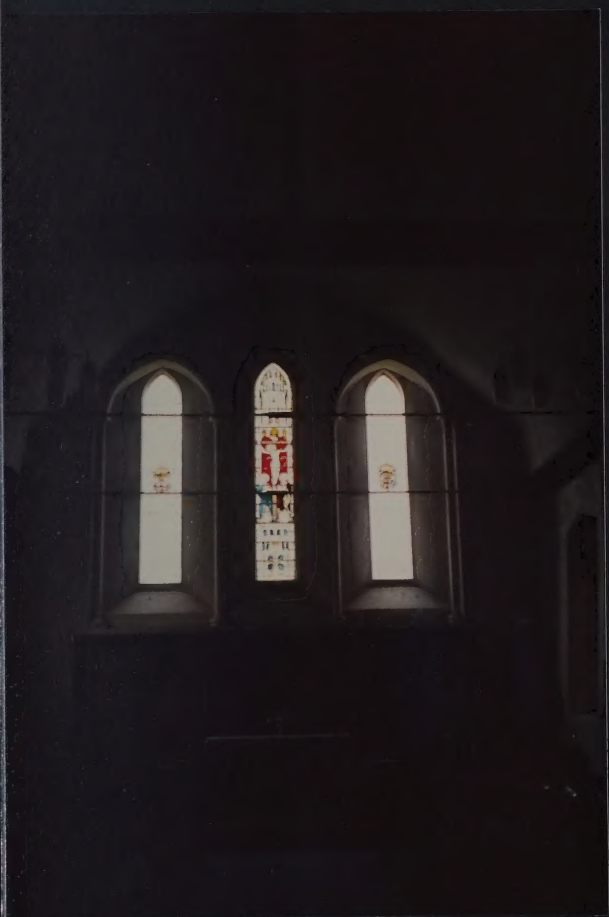
The interior is unadorned, although the whitewashed walls may once have been brightly painted. (Traces of paint were found on one wall after an ancient pew was moved in the 1960s. The Puritans, of course, eschewed all decoration, and this area was the center of the Puritan movement.) Two small stained-glass windows above the altar are particularly interesting because one shows the arms of Jane Seymour; the other those of Henry VIII. Why they are here is not explained!

Among the marble memorials affixed to the walls is a large one to Richard Stane, 1630-1714. The name struck our eyes because the Mormon records give the name of the mother of Richard Lyman (born in 1580, he took his family to America and was a founder of Hartford) variously as Phyllis Stane or Stone. We thought Stane might have been a misprint; now we know that was the name of a prominent family in this parish.

A pamphlet on St. Mary's Church told us that its first records date from the early 12th century. Eustace, Count of Bologne, whose family came with William the Conqueror, gave the right to chose High Ongar's cleryman to a Cluniac Priory in France.

The pamphlet also mentioned that High Ongar Parish is divided in three parts: High Ongar, Marden Ash, and Norton Mandeville. Pursuing that clue, we inquired at the pub across the street and were told that Norton Mandeville was out in the fields on the other side of the highway.

We crossed the highway and drove along a narrow paved road which soon gave way to a gravel track along the edge of a plowed field. The further we drove, the surer I was we had taken a wrong turn, but Ruth insisted we should keep going. Then, rounding a curve, we came upon a tiny church on the edge of the field.



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As we drove up, we found several farm buildings behind it. A large flock of geese and ducks waddled out of our way. Down a little lane to our left, at some distance from the church, was a large, gabled 19th century house before which hung a sign: "Norton Hall." The ducks and geese were the only living things in sight.

All Saints' Church of Norton Mandeville is a little gem. Also built of flint rubble, it dates from the first half of the 14th century but contains some blocks of stone from an earlier, 12th century church. Its history also goes back to the Norman Conquest. Geoffrey de Mandeville came from a village of that name in Normandy and landed at Hastings with William. (Norton comes from "North Tun," meaning homestead or village.) All Saints' was probably built as a "chapel of ease" for the village of High Ongar, which is within walking distance. A document dated 1181 says the parson of High Ongar had a "cure of souls" in Norton Mandeville, yet, in spite of this proximity, this did not become part of High Ongar parish until 1958! Over the intervening centuries it went through a number of jurisdictions, including at one time St. Paul's in London.

The interior is most striking for the huge oaken beams that support the roof and the crude, square, stone baptismal font, which dates from the 12th century. The font in the High Ongar church is a 19th century one, but we could be sure that some of Ruth's distant ancestors were baptized in this one!

both churches and villages, we set out to find Navestock. Having established that High Ongar and Mandeville were Mandeville is a mile or so north of High Ongar; Navestock is only a few miles south. With Ruth's skillful navigation, we found the latter easily on a road that winds up into the hills off the main highway. The only buildings were Navestock Manor, a private residence off to one side that we did not see, and the Parish Church of St. Thomas the Apostle.

St. Thomas was the most unusual church of these three. Its features include an 11th century nave, an aisle on the south side almost as wide as the nave which was added in the 13th century, and a squat tower and soaring spire at the end of the aisle.

As we entered, its ancient walls echoed with the shouts and squeals of boys running up and down the aisles. The harassed schoolmaster who was trying to control them probably brought them here to improve their minds, but they had turned it into a scavenger hunt!

The sexton, an oddly misshapen little man, at first thought we were responsible for these unruly adolescents. His appearance and demeanor prompted thoughts of Quasimodo! But after the schoolmaster corralled the last boy and herded them back to their bus, peace returned and the sexton proved to be friendly and helpful.



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He proudly showed us the interior of the tower, which is constructed of huge oak timbers with immense braces that hold them in place.

A sign on one of them told us more: "This fascinating structure was subjected to Carbon-14 analysis a few years ago. It gave an age of 770 years + or - 60 years. A highly probable date for its building would be around 1250, about the time the existing south aisle of the church was added. It may well of stood in isolation, off the SW angle of the church, before the building of the south aisle since this was not an uncommon position for belfries during the 13th century."

The strength of this ancient structure was sorely tested during the Battle of Britain in World War II. In September, 1940, a land mine parachuted from a German bomber landed in the churchyard. It blasted an enormous crater and seriously damaged the west and south walls of the church -- but it didn't budge the spire!

(With that wonderful British talent for turning adversity to advantage, the congregation turned the crater into a charming rose garden.)



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By this time twilight had fallen, so we decided we would drive to Loughton to do our research in the library. The route looked fairly simple on the map. By now we should have learned! For the next hour we wandered down one twisting lane after another, in constant peril from rush-hour traffic leaving London and confounded by the peculiar British custom of not bothering to label some main roads, including the one to a good-sized town like Loughton. Finally, quite by accident, we found ourselves on the main street of a city. It was Loughton! But where was the library? Ruth got out and asked a man sitting in a parked car. In a typically British gesture, he started up his motor and led us to it. It had taken far longer than we planned to get here, but there was still time to do some work. Then we saw the building: all dark. The library was closed all day today....

That's when we got out our directory of local housing and found these digs. We recovered our spirits, which had sunken pretty low, at a French restaurant and got back here early. We'll be at the library first thing in the morning.

Wednesday, November 9, 10 PM

This morning we stopped only briefly at the Loughton Library. We got some valuable information on the histories of High Ongar, Norton Mandeville and Navestock but were told the genealogical records we sought were in the Essex Records Office in Chelmsford. So we hopped in our car and, with considerably less confusion than the night before, got back on the highway to Chelmsford. If the sun had been shining, we would have stopped again at the three little churches to get some better pictures, but since the overcast was just as low as usual, we drove on by.

It's worth noting that Chipping Ongar is the terminus of one of the London Underground lines -- a 20th century incursion into a part of Essex that is still redolent of earlier centuries. If we or anyone else return to the ancestral seat of the Lymans, it would be easiest to take the Tube to Ongar and then walk the mile across open country to High Ongar. Norton Mandeville is a mile or so north of there, and Navestock would be a few miles walk in the other direction. "Chipping," incidentally, means "market" and is a common prefix to place names in Britain. Remember Chipping Campden? "Cheap" comes from the same root: the Saxon ceapeian, "to barter."

After turning in the car, we went to the Essex Record Office and spent most of the day going through the extensive files. We confirmed much of the information we already had on the Lymans and learned some new facts. All these will be duly recorded in our Family Group Records.

Examining microfilms of documents written in 16th and 17th century script is exhausting. We went right through lunch, so by four o'clock we were tired and famished. We refueled on tea and scones, took the train back to London, picked up the bags we had left at Euston, and were settled at our London hotel by six PM.

Afterthought: Just recently a new Lyman cousin recounted for me her trip to High Ongar one spring several years ago. When she and her Mother found the church in High Ongar they were greeted by the pastor, who said, "Ah yes, the return of the Lymans!" Surprised, they asked whether Lymans arrived at his door every spring. With a smile and a big sigh, he replied, "Oh yes---every spring!"

I believe the most useful thing any of us who have been there can do is encourage any Lyman who has not done so to take flight, not necessarily in spring-time, and make that symbolic return home. You will be amply rewarded.

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HUSBAND Eli PARDEE-3780

BORN: PLACE:
CHR.: PLACE:
DIED: PLACE:
BUR.: PLACE:
MARR: 24 Feb 1791 PLACE: Litchfield,Litchfield,CT
FATHER:
MOTHER:

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WIFE Sarah LYMAN-119

BORN: 29 Apr 1756 PLACE: Glastonbury, Hartford, CT
CHR.: PLACE:
DIED: PLACE:
BUR.: PLACE:
FATHER: Samuel LYMAN-80
MOTHER: Sarah BARTLETT-91

PARENTS' MRIN: 14

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CHILDREN

1. NAME: Clarissa PARDEE-4107
---- BORN: 11 Oct 1795 PLACE: Litchfield,Litchfield,CT
F CHR.: PLACE:
DIED: 2 Nov 1795 PLACE: Litchfield,Litchfield,CT
BUR.: PLACE:
SPOUSE:
MARR: PLACE:

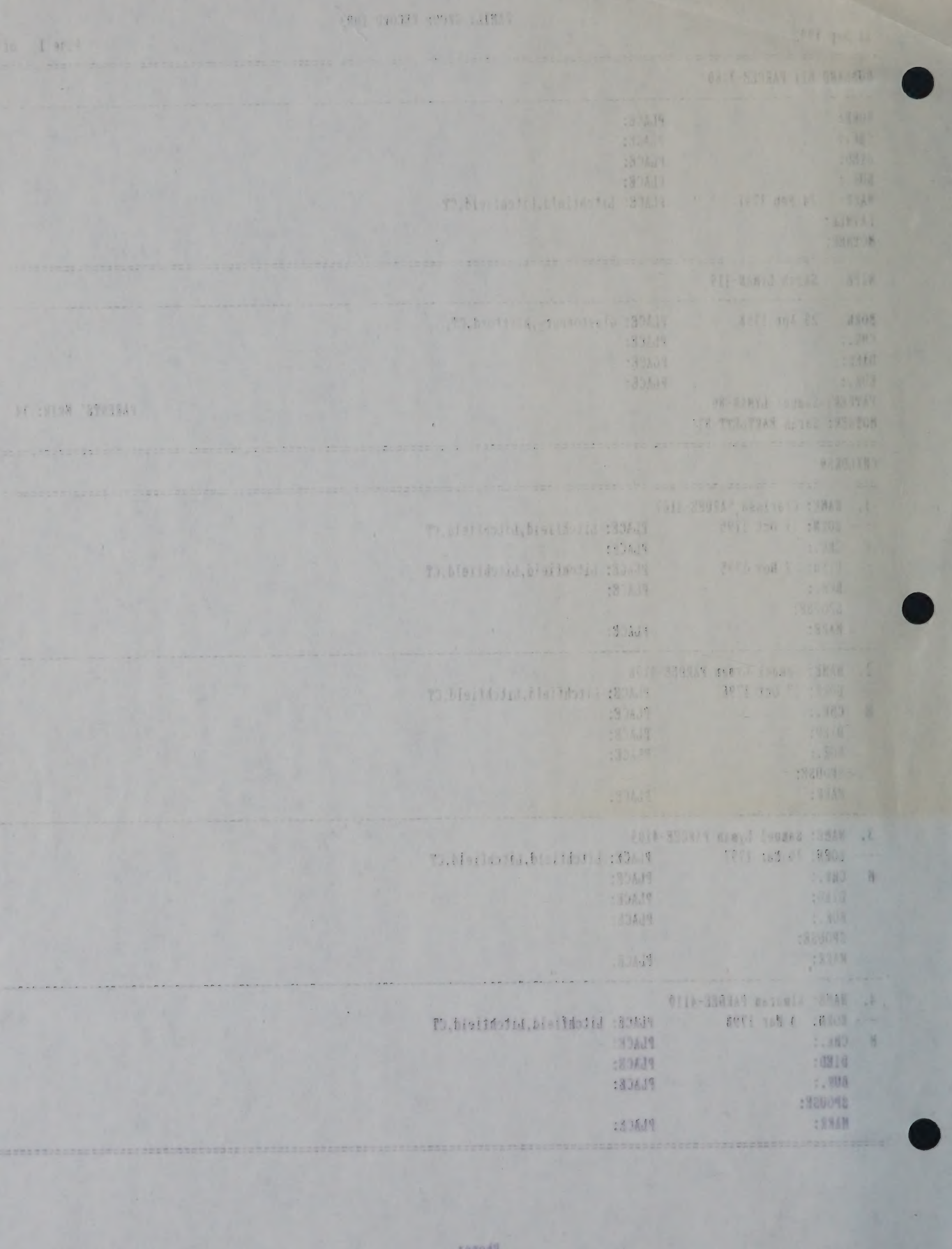
2. NAME: Samuel Lyman PARDEE-4108
---- BORN: 27 Oct 1796 PLACE: Litchfield,Litchfield,CT
M CHR.: PLACE:
DIED: PLACE:
BUR.: PLACE:
SPOUSE:
MARR: PLACE:

3. NAME: Samuel Lyman PARDEE-4109
---- BORN: 10 Mar 1797 PLACE: Litchfield,Litchfield,CT
M CHR.: PLACE:
DIED: PLACE:
BUR.: PLACE:
SPOUSE:
MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Almaran PARDEE-4110
---- BORN: 4 Mar 1798 PLACE: Litchfield,Litchfield,CT
M CHR.: PLACE:
DIED: PLACE:
BUR.: PLACE:
SPOUSE:
MARR: PLACE:

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Phone:



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HUSBAND Eli PARDEE-3780
WIFE Sarah LYMAN-119

Yr of Birth
Yr of Birth 1758

CHILDREN (continued)

5. NAME: Isaac Lyman PARDEE-4111

---- BORN: 20 Feb 1800 PLACE: Litchfield, Litchfield, CT

N CHR.: PLACE:

DIED: PLACE:

BUR.: PLACE:

SPOUSE:

MARR: PLACE:

WUSKARD ETI PAPER-1780
WIFE Sarah PAPER-1780

CHILDREN (continued)

2. NAME: Isaac PAPER-1780
BORN: 20 Feb 1888
PLACE: Middletown, CT
AGE: 10
SEX: M
DATE: 1888
PLACE: Middletown, CT
NAME: 1888

FAMILY GROUP RECORD-1093
DOCUMENTATION

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HUSBAND Eli PARDEE-3780
WIFE Sarah LYMAN-119

Yr of Birth
Yr of Birth 1758

HUSBAND - Eli PARDEE-3780

Source: Marriage rec. Litchfield Vital Rec, Vol 1, p 158 (6?) by Samuel Darrow J.P.

WIFE - Sarah LYMAN-119

~~Doc: Glastonbury Vital Rec. Vol. I, p. 57~~

~~Marriage: Litchfield Vital Rec., Vol 1, p 158 (6?) by Samuel Darrow J.P. (Needs verification that this is the same Sarah Lyman)~~

The Pardee Genealogy
p 157

CHILD 1 - Clarissa PARDEE-4107

Doc: Litchfield Vit Rec Vol 1, p 156

CHILD 2 - Samuel Lyman PARDEE-4108

Doc: Litchfield Vit Rec Vol 1, p 156. ?? is whether this is the same baby by same name listed as #3 this family, or whether this baby died in the 6 month period before the next baby was born & given the same name

CHILD 3 - Samuel Lyman PARDEE-4109

Doc: Litchfield Vit Rec Vol 1, p 154 ?? is this the same baby as #2

CHILD 4 - Almaran PARDEE-4110

Doc: Litchfield Vit Rec Vol 1, p 156

CHILD 5 - Isaac Lyman PARDEE-4111

Doc: Litchfield Vit Rec Vol 1, p 156

FAMILY GROUP RECORD 1981
DOCUMENTATION

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17 Feb 1982

Yr of Birth
Yr of Birth 1920

HUSBAND Eli PARSONS-2780
WIFE Sarah LYMAN-119

HUSBAND - Eli PARSONS-2780

WIFE - Sarah LYMAN-119

Source: Mitchell's Rec. Mitchell's Vital Rec. Vol. 1, p. 128 (1871) by Samuel Patton 27. (1982)
Note: This is the same Sarah Lyman.

CHILD 1 - Charles PARSONS-4107

Doc: Mitchell's Vital Rec Vol. 1, p. 128

CHILD 2 - Samuel LYMAN PARSONS-4108

Doc: Mitchell's Vital Rec Vol. 1, p. 128. It is whether this is the same baby by name name listed as 43 this family, or whether this baby died in the 2 month period before the next baby was born & given the same name.

CHILD 3 - Samuel LYMAN PARSONS-4109

Doc: Mitchell's Vital Rec Vol. 1, p. 128. It is this the same baby as 43.

CHILD 4 - Almon PARSONS-4110

Doc: Mitchell's Vital Rec Vol. 1, p. 128

CHILD 5 - Isaac LYMAN PARSONS-4111

Doc: Mitchell's Vital Rec Vol. 1, p. 128